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A SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY ON URBAN DESIGN

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Introduction

This bibliography is designed to broadly cover a rather specialized field within comprehensive urban planning. Recent changes and predictable further developments are widening urban concerns from their historically more limited spatial and aesthetic orientation to include social, economic, political and legal considerations. The enormous complexity and diversity of urban interrelationships has led to the use of new techniques, such as systems analysis, mathematical models, and the use of computers linked to giant electronic data banks.

In the face of these rapid changes in planning it is understandable that attention is concentrating on the social and scientific aspects of urbanism. It would be a serious mistake to neglect the importance of the city as a three-dimensional artifact capable of evoking powerful aesthetic, symbolic and artistic satisfactions in each of us.

This bibliography concentrates on urban or civic design. It does not attempt to cover the emerging field of environmental perception and computer aided design or historical and philosophical inquiries into the growth of cities.

Many of the most challenging thoughts and new ideas in any discipline are found in professional journals, and on a more popular basis in magazines. They could not be included within the desired limits of this listing. Other recent bibliographies cited at the end of this one provide adequate coverage of journals, magazines and pamphlets.

The annotations have been prepared to aid the reader in his search. They are derived from several sources, with fairly neutral listings of the major features of a work on the one hand and strongly qualitative statements based on personal opinion on the other hand. Although somewhat inconsistent, this was considered to be the best of several choices. Concepts have been given for books of key importance with which the compiler is especially familiar.

Value statements are of course open to criticism and the reader is warned that what I consider with affection may turn out to be his poison. Any comments or suggestions will be most welcome.

Finally, the assistance of Mr. David Twombly in compiling material is greatly appreciated.

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Appleyard, Donald; Kevin Lynch and John R. Myer. The View from the Road. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1964, 64 pp. (illus.)

An attempt to consider the urban highway as a positive visual experience that organizes motion, space and view to achieve esthetic enjoyment.

Bacon, Edmund N. Design of Cities. Viking Press, 1967, 296 pp. (illus.)

A wide-ranging and yet selective view through history with the emphasis on the integration of form and function. Major principles are simultaneous movement systems - or the path of the feet and the eye - and democratic feedback - or citizen review.

A splendid tour-de-force of design philosophy.

Blair, Lachlan F. (Editor). College Hill--A Demonstration Study of Historic Area Renewal. Providence, Rhode Island: Providence City Planning Commission, 2nd ed. 1967, 231 pp. (illus.) Paper.

Cited by the AIA in 1960 for a major contribution to American architecture community planning and civic design, the College Hill study presented the historic conservation and rehabilitation problems of the oldest part of Providence clearly, succinctly and beautifully.

The section on analysis of style alone makes the report highly worthwhile. The second edition includes a chapter detailing the success of College Hill preservation.

Blake, Peter. God's Own Junkyard. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964, 144 pp. (illus).

A chilling, illustrated tour of the United States, where land speculation, bureaucratic constraints and tax regulations and general indifference combine to make urban planning entirely ineffective.

Blessing, Charles A. and Staff. Detroit 1990/An Urban Design Concept for the Inner City. Detroit City Plan Commission, 1970, unpaged. Paper.

An outstanding demonstration grant report--a conceptual design plan for a major city core.

Received a HUD award for design excellence.

Canty, Donald (ed.). Prepared by Urban America, Inc. for the National Committee on Urban Growth Policy. The New City. New York: Praeger, 1969, 180 pp. (illus.)

The best case yet made in the U.S. for an urban growth policy that would produce carefully designed new communities of different sizes, types and functions. Beautifully illustrated.

Cullen, Gordon. Townscape. New York: Reinhold, 1961, 315 pp.

A synopsis of the writings of the author which appeared regularly on the pages of Architectural Review. Ingredients and principles and possibilities of the art of townscape and their application in existing and proposed plans.

DeChiara, Joseph and Lee Koppelman in cooperation with the School of Architecture, Pratt Institute. Planning Design Criteria. School of Architecture, Pratt Institute, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1969, 386 pp. (illus.)

A presentation of graphic and numerical standards directed at practicing planners for use in applying to design problems. e.g. explains how a house should be oriented to catch the sun, how to space trees, light poles, hydrants, etc.
- a good reference for professional use.
- is not meant to be creative in stimulating new design ideas, but rather to provide planners with accepted standards.

Dober, Richard P. Environmental Design. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1970, 288 pp. (illus.)

A reference work divided into sections on human habitation, design structure, and ways to achieve a sense of place.

Eckbo, Garrett. Urban Landscape Design. McGraw-Hill, 1964, 280 pp. (illus.)

Discusses many aspects of the landscape with emphasis on the importance of quality, completeness and continuity. Author uses case studies to illustrate design aspects. Material is also included about the maintenance of landscape design.

Fagin, Henry and Robert Weinberg (ed.) Planning and Community Appearance. Regional Plan Association, New York, Joint Committee on Design Control Report, 1958.

The first organized effort to deal with the difficult subject of legislating "good design". Now dated but of major importance at the time of its appearance.

Gibberd, Frederick. Town Design (5th ed. revised), Praeger, 1967, 372 pp. (illus.)

A classic British study on town design as an art, with architecture, landscape and road design as integral parts of the "urban scene". Emphasis on the visual qualities.

There is also an excellent analysis of how new towns (predominantly European) are designed. Some examples used are Harlow, Crawley, Chandigarh and Brasilia.

Giedion, Sigfried. Space, Time and Architecture. Harvard University Press, 1967, (5th ed.), 881 pp. (illus.)

Traces the development of modern architecture from an historian's point of view. An extensive analysis is offered of the relationships between planning and architecture during past centuries.

Some major concepts:

- Architecture is an index to a period as well as an independent organism of its own; thus a concern for historical continuity will permit a more meaningful and significant life.

- The simultaneous view of a building from the outside and the inside made possible by the glass curtain wall may be considered as the introduction of a fourth dimension - time - to the other three dimensions of space.

- Frank Lloyd Wright's main influence on American and indeed Western culture is what he called himself "organic architecture".

- In analyzing the main trends of modern architecture, the contributions of Gropius (form follows function), Le Corbusier (the house is a machine to live in) and Mies van der Rohe (less is more) are of major significance.

- The parkway, the skyscraper and the city within the city completely transform the scale of the modern city.

An outstanding, strongly philosophical work.

Gruen, Victor and Larry Smith. Shopping Towns USA. New York: Reinhold, 1960.

The best and most elegant treatment of an original American contribution: the planned, regional shopping center.

Gruen, Victor. The Heart of Our Cities. The Urban Crisis: Diagnosis and Cure. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1964, 368 pp. (illus.)

A proposal for the redesign of our cities on the basis of civilization, health, comfort, convenience and enjoyment with major attention to the core or heart. The revitalization of that core is a most urgent task for the health of the entire organism.

Written just before the social and racial upheaval of the mid-sixties, the clear and powerful lesson of this book has been only partly heeded. Not a single city has transformed its center into a pedestrian paradise, although many have gone part way. It is ironic that the author's most noteworthy contribution to automobile age planning - the regional shopping center - has done much to sap the strength and vitality of the central core of the city.

Hammerschlag, Dieter (Editor). Downtown Providence 1970. Providence City Plan Commission, 1961, 250 pp. (illus.) Paper.

This demonstration project in planning with citizen participation has had three principal objectives: To make a 10 year development plan for the downtown area of a medium sized American city; to use the highest degree of cooperation between private citizens and public officials in planning as well as implementation; and finally, to employ imaginative design in restoring a measure of order and beauty to the heart of the city.

Hammerschlag, Dieter. A New Town for Rhode Island. Bureau of Government Research, University of Rhode Island, 1970, 40 pp. Paper.

The description of the site selection and design process for a new town in our smallest state, in the framework of some urban policy questions.

Halprin, Lawrence. Cities. New York: Reinhold, 1963, 224 pp. (illus.)

A picture book on the basic elements of the city - its urban open spaces: the streets, plazas, parks, gardens which give it character and the embellishments of paving, water and street furniture.

Halprin, Lawrence. Freeways. New York: Reinhold, 1966, 160 pp. (illus.)

A picture book which probes into the nature and design of freeways and offers many constructive suggestions for improvement.

Halprin, Lawrence. New York, New York. A study of the quality, character, and meaning of open space in urban design. Prepared for the New York City Housing and Development Administration, 119 pp., 1968.

The analysis of six housing and urban renewal projects with specific redesign of open spaces.

The dreadful sterility of most public open space is here transformed into places of identity.

Hegemann, Werner and Elbert Peets. The American Vitruvius. An Architect's Handbook on Civic Art, Architectural Book Pub. Co., New York, 1922.

This monster picture book is a treasure trove of pre-modern civic splendors and some very good, little known early urban design.

Hertzen, Heikki von and Paul D. Spreiregan. Building a New Town: Finland's New Garden City, Tapiola. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1970, 288 pp., (illus.)

A collaborative venture by an outside observor who investigates the project from all angles, its context and its background, and the projects founder who explains in detail its financing, building and administration.

Tapiola is an environment that is humane, beautiful and eminently workable.

Holland, Lawrence B. (ed.). Who Designs America? Doubleday and Co., 1966, 357 pp. (illus.)

A series of papers presented at the American Civilization Conference at Princeton University in 1964 by leading figures in the field of urban design. Topics range from discussions of the social aspects of design to analyses of community forms and the quality of city design.

Logue argues that there is no constituency for good design but the designers themselves. Thus the designers must politic their way to sufficient power to ensure good design.

Hommann, Mary. Wooster Square Design. New Haven Redevelopment Agency, New Haven, Connecticut, 1965, 191 pp. (illus.)

A report on the background, experience and design procedures in redevelopment and rehabilitation in an urban renewal project with the first successful citizen participation in the country.

A landmark project and report.

Howard, Ebenezer. Garden Cities of To-morrow. Cambridge: MIT Press.

The single most influential city-planning book of all time, originally published in 1898.

Jacobs, Jane. The Death and Life of Great American Cities. New York: Random House, 1961, 458 pp.

An intriguing and dangerous book. It examines many sacred cows of modern planning and demolishes them effectively, but it generalizes an experience valid for Greenwich Village and ends up throwing out the baby with the bath water.

Lewis, David (ed.). The Pedestrian in the City. Princeton: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1966.

A series of articles by a number of authorities in planning and traffic engineering on the separation of pedestrian and vehicular circulation.

Lindbloom, Carl G. Environmental Design Review, New York: Chandler-Davis, 1970, 60 pp.

An up-to-date no-nonsense approach to achieving good design within the constraints of a pluralistic society. The art of the possible and how to go about getting it.

London County Council. The Planning of a New Town. (Hook), London County Council, London, 1961.

Data and design based on a study for a new town of 100,000 at Hook, Hampshire.

Lynch, Kevin. The Image of the City. MIT Press, 1960, 194 pp. (illus.)

Examines the importance of the city's image and explores possibilities for change. Examples discussed include Boston, Jersey City and Los Angeles.

An important new thought about the form of the city, it deals with perception and its role in a person's orientation to his environment. Lynch's word "imageability" denotes those form qualities that provide orientation, which make the city legible. Imageability is now accepted as an official goal of city design, testifying to the remarkable impact of this book.

Lynch, Kevin. Site Planning. MIT Press, 1962, 243 pp. (illus.)

A sensitive and spare discussion of the art of arranging the external physical environment: street design, visual form, climate, site engineering, landscaping and certain major elements of metropolitan growth such as housing, shopping centers and industrial parks.

A book of practical knowledge written with a sense of poetry.

McHarg, Ian L. Design with Nature. Garden City, New York: Natural History Press, 1969, 198 pp. (illus.)

A new approach to planning methodology, based on ecological analysis. Man the intruder becomes a more humble creature. McHarg's philosophy is a plea to treat the earth not as if we owned it but as if it were left in trust with us.

Myerson, Martin. Face of the Metropolis. Sponsored by ACTION, New York: Random House, 1963, 250 pp. (illus.)

A pictoral compendium of good architecture and urban design selected from all over the western world since the end of World War II.

Ministry of Transport. Traffic in Towns. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office, 1963, 224 pp. (illus.)

The famous Buchanan Report, examining in detail the long term problems of traffic in urban areas and demonstrating a variety of solutions which respect or improve the fabric of the city.

Moholy-Nagy, Sibyl. Matrix of Man. An illustrated History of Urban Environment. New York: Praeger, 1968, 224 pp. (illus.)

Nairn, Ian. The American Landscape. New York: Random House, 1965, 153 pp. (illus.)

A 10,000 mile trip through the United States, sometimes critical, but mostly hopeful and positive. A main theme of the author is his contention that townscape depends on relationship and identity. Many forceful pictures prove this point.

Neutra, Richard. Survival through Design. New York: Oxford University Press, 1954, 384 pp.

The distillation of the life-long experience and the philosophy of a famous architect of the international style.

Some major concepts:

- A strong case for "Total Design" can be made, based largely on biological reasons such as the reduction of nervous strain caused by our chaotic environment.

- There is a direct relationship between all our senses and the quality and intensity of the environment.

- "Biological community planning" should be equally based on science and intuition.

Peets, Elbert. On the Art of Designing Cities: Selected Essays of Elbert Peets. Paul D. Speiregen, ed., Cambridge: MIT Press, 1968, 234 pp. (illus.)

The essays of a landscape architect and civic designer - a true humanist - on a variety of places and subjects.

Perin, Constance. With Man in Mind. An Interdisciplinary Prospectus for Environmental Design. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1970, 168 pp.

Rasmussen, Steen Eiler. Experiencing Architecture. MIT Press, 1959, 251 pp. (illus.)

The reader is persuaded that there is intellectual excitement in good design. Its excellence, as it is visually experienced, depends on the clever use of certain principles: contrast (scale), repetition (rhythm), the use of materials (texture) and the use of light and color.

An excellent little book - straightforward and charming in its simplicity.

Rapuano, Michael, P. P. Pirone and Brooks E. Wigginton. Open Space in Urban Design. Prepared for the Cleveland Development Foundation and sponsored by the Junior League of Cleveland, Inc., the Spiral Press, New York, 1964.

An excellent work with specific landscaping and plant information not otherwise available.

Rapuano, Michael et. al. The Freeway in the City--Principles of Planning and Design. A report by the Urban Advisors to the Federal Highway Administrator. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1968, 141 pp.

An excellent report, containing a detailed checklist with major recommendations and basic principles of urban freeway planning and design.

Regional Plan Association (Frank Williams and Rai Okamoto). Urban Design Manhattan. New York: Viking Press, 1969, 130 pp. (illus.)

An application of transportation design to a large midtown area in an effort to bring order to the various urban systems by means of the "access tree principle".

An important contribution to making the city work, using as an example one of the most complex human beehives on earth.

Rudofsky, Bernard. Streets for People. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1969.

A celebration of the city street as a source of beauty and community.

Scully, Vincent. American Architecture and Urbanism. New York: Praeger, 1969, 275 pp. (illus.)

An architectural historian traces architecture and urban development. in America.

Simonds, John O. Landscape Architecture. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1961, 244 pp. (illus.)

Outlines the landscape planning process from selection of the site to the completed project. A beautifully illustrated book and an articulate plea for intelligent site planning.

Sitte, Camillo. City Planning according to Artistic Principles. New York: Random House, 1965.

A new translation of a basic urban design text which, since published in 1889 in Vienna, has become a classic work.

Soleri, Paolo. Arcology--The City in the Image of Man. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1970, 256 pp.

Soleri believes that architecture can become the "physical definition of a multi-level, human ecology. It can be arcology--the implosion of the flat megalopolis of today into an urban solid of superdense and human vitality."

He is profoundly critical of the present (false) order of things and pinpoints the evils of scatteration, sprawl, flatness, distance and waste.

His megastructure with hundreds of interrelated levels form a new man-made earthscape.

A fantastic and provocative philosophy expressed in 30 three dimensional images. Raises many social questions without answering them, but is surely the message of true genius.

Speiregen, Paul D. Urban Design: The Architecture of Towns and Cities. McGraw-Hill, 1965, 243 pp. (illus.)

A discussion of basic design principles. With the help of hundreds of hand-drawn little sketches the author illustrates the basic elements of urban design. The work was commissioned by the American Institute of Architects and provides a specific contribution in this field that did not exist before.

Stein, Clarence. Toward New Towns for America. New York: Reinhold, 1957, 263 pp. (illus.)

The account of an American pioneer in and of housing and planning of the 20's and 30's.

Tunnard, Christopher and Henry H. Reed. The American Skyline, the Growth and Form of Our Towns and Cities. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1953.

An excellent history of civic design in the United States.

Tunnard, Christopher. The City of Man. New York: Scribner and Sons, 1953, 424 pp. (illus.)

An important contribution to civic design during the post-war period of functionalism. Some major concepts:

- Town planning in the "grand design" manner has been a major influence here, but results have often fallen short of expectations, because the two-dimensional streets depend for their impact on the third dimension provided by the facade of buildings.

- Romanticism, as a reaction against the sooty city of the industrial revolution, was a major influence in the rise of the suburbs.

- Civic art and civic design can humanize the contemporary city and should be used comprehensively to that end.

- Current planning trends may be characterized as official, picturesque and functional.

- It is suggested that our approach to the task should be creative urbanism instead of city planning.

Tunnard, Christopher and Boris Pushkarev. Man-Made America: Chaos or Control. An inquiry into Selected Problems of Design in the Urbanized Landscape, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1963, 479 pp. (illus.)

An examination of the landscape of mid-century America, with particular attention to the vast urban-rural fringe areas. Design solutions are offered for many of the environmental use patterns. Some major concepts:

- To avoid chaos, the urbanized landscape should be developed with a logical and sensitive set of visual principles, applicable specifically to low density housing, industry, commerce and recreation.

- Freeway design can produce highly satisfying and exciting results, if principles of internal and external harmony are used in site planning and engineering.

Vernon, Raymond. The Changing Economic Function of the Central City. Committee for Economic Development, New York, 1959.

An authoritative but nontechnical analysis of the changes of economic function behind so many of the evident changes in our older downtown areas.

No mention of urban design, but most valuable in understanding the changes in city structure.

Wolfe, Meyer R. and R. D. Shim. Urban Design within the Comprehensive Planning Process. University of Washington, 1970, 247 pp. Paper.

A study exploring the approaches in urban design that may be applied in comprehensive planning with the intent of producing a guideline document which gives direction on the achievement of an urban design component within the planning process.

Wright, Frank Lloyd. The Living City. New York: Horizon, 1958.

Wright's dream of Broadacre City, a decentralized settlement to replace the crowded city, represents a consistent extension of Wright's architectural ideas. To critics it sounds too much like suburban sprawl; to fans it is a poetic statement of the American dream.

Zucker, Paul. Town and Square from the Agora to the Village Green. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959.

OTHER BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Catalog of the Library of the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University G. K. Hall and Co., Boston, Massachusetts, 1968.

A photographic reduction of the entire catalog of the Library of the Graduate School of Design at Harvard. Three principle subject headings are architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning. Includes 140,000 books, periodicals and theses systematically indexed in an estimated 611,000 entries, bound in 44 volumes. An excellent research reference.

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8. Selected Urban Design Projects since World War II by Walter T. Slipe, 1958.

10. Ideal Forms for Cities: An Historical Bibliography by Phyllis W. Ingersoll, 1959.

64. Architectural Control in Northern Europe by Sydney Cohn, 1969.

66. A Short Bibliography on Megastructures by Ralph Wilcoxen, 1969.

68. Nineteenth Century American Public Landscape Design by Ian R. Stuart, 1969.

84. A General Booklist on Urban Design by Roger Montgomery, May 1969.

87. Urban Design as a Public Planning Function by James Urbonas, May 1969.

88. Paolo Soleri by Ralph Wilcoxen, 1969.

93. An Annotated Bibliography on Environmental Perception by James Harrison, August 1969.

#122. The New Town Concept: Private Trends and Public Response by James A. Clapp, April 1970.

#124. Factors and Forces Influential to Architectural Design by William C. Miller, April 1970.

Branch, Melville C. Comprehensive Urban Planning. A Selected Annotated Bibliography with Related Materials. Beverly Hills, California: Sage Publications, 1970.

The most up-to-date planning bibliography with 1500 titles covering all main areas of planning. Urban Design falls under a heading of "Subsystems: Environment" with about 100 entries.

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